



# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CITY ATTORNEY'S PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES HEADED TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S RULES COMMITTEE**

**San Diego, CA:** San Diego City Attorney Michael Aguirre today announced a proposal for three amendments to the San Diego City Charter for placement on the June, 2008 election ballot. The proposed measures seek voter approval for a Neighborhood Bill of Rights; an elected City Auditor; and subpoena power for the City Attorney.

The City Attorney took the first step in the process by submitting the ballot proposals to the Office of the City Clerk.

**1.**

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT**

It is the right of the people to participate in local government. The people have a right to participate in all government decisions including, without limitation, budget priorities, the monitoring of City services, and land use planning.

**2.**

#### **ELECTED AUDITOR AND GENERAL ACCOUNTANT**

The Auditor and Controller shall be the auditor and general accountant of the City and shall exercise a general supervision over the accounts of all offices, departments, boards and employees of the City charged in any manner with the receipt, collection or disbursement of the money of the City. The Auditor and Controller shall be elected by the people for a term of four (4) years.

**3.**

#### **SUBPOENA POWERS FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

The City Attorney may subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance and testimony, administer oaths and affirmations, take evidence and require by subpoena the production of any books, papers, records, or other items necessary to be used in any suit, or required for the purpose of the office.

Under Council Policy 000-21 members of the public and department heads may submit ballot proposals to the City Council for consideration. The process is initiated through the submission of the ballot proposals by the City Attorney's Office to the City Clerk. The City Clerk then forwards the ballot proposals to the Rules, Open Government, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. If approved at Committee the measures are sent to the City Council for their consideration and placement of the election ballot. In order to pass, each Charter reform measure would require a majority of voter support.

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